

**INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL
INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

COMMITTEE: Family Support Services

RECORDER: Stephanie Myers

DATE: April 24, 2002

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESENT: George Chance (co-chair), Nina Lavine, Sherry Torok, Kay Ryan (acting co-chair), Stephanie Cobay, Wendy Roberts, Laurie Jordan, Kate Warren

STAFF: Stephanie Myers, WestEd

DDS LIAISONS: Debby Reath, DDS, Cheri Schoenborn, DDS

ABSENT: Patty Moore (co-chair), Juno Duenas, Barbara Helfing, Jan Kearns, Beverly Morgan Sandoz, Doug Cleveland, Terry Colborn, Nancy Sage (CDE)

GUESTS: Mary Smithberger (CDE), Linda Brault (Sonoma State University), Virginia Reynolds (WestEd), Sharon Rea Zone (CDPAC), Linda M. Parfitt (CDE/CDD), Michael Zito (CDE/CDD), Dawn Paxson, (Alameda County Commission Child Care), Kathi Walker (El Dorado County CC&D Planning Council), Rachel Ford (Matrix Parent Network & Resources)

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT POINTS AND ACTIONS CONSIDERED

I. Introduction and Opening Comments:

Welcome by George Chance and an extended thank you to all who were able to attend the interim meeting today. Cheri Schoenborn was introduced and talked about the role of the ICC and the FSSC. In Ms. Schoenborn's statement she stated that it is important to remember that the ICC does not set policy. Policy is set through the Legislative process in statute and regulations. The ICC provides recommendations to the Lead Agency, the Department of Developmental Services, as advice and assistance in the administration of Early Start. In this interim meeting, the FSSC will prepare an action item to recommend DDS and the ICC participate in the planning for a child care symposium.

II. Agenda Review:

Agenda was reviewed and approved as presented with clarification on the purpose and outcomes of today's meetings.

III. Overview of last FSSC Meeting:

George Chance asked Kay Ryan to give an overview of the last FSSC meeting in order for focus and discuss the proposed symposium. Kay reported on the following items:

- Child Care discussion: Issues that families face: affordability, accessibility and quality of care. The ICC position paper on child care was revisited with questions of how to take the position paper to another level.

- “*Transfer of Knowledge Symposium*” – an opportunity to bring teams together and share information, promising practices, natural environments, child care support.
- Symposium should be offered in two places in the month of October.
- CDD is not doing their conference in October
- An outcome of the symposium should be exploration of strategies to come together and identifying what the mutual benefits for County Prop 10 Commissions, R&R’s, LPC.
- At this interim meeting we are to look at the issues we have been discussing at our FSSC meetings and produce an Action Item to be acted on by the ICC at the next meeting in May 2002.

IV. Committee Tasks and Activities:

Major Discussion Points

A. ACTION ITEM

FSSC Action Item to the ICC Title: Recommendations for a “Transfer of Knowledge Symposium on Child Care”

Recommendation: The ICC recommends that the Department of Developmental Services collaborate, support and participate with CDPAC and other key stakeholders to plan, develop and implement a child care symposium in the fall of 2002. Specific immediate support requested: the ICC will support the participation of six designees in this effort.

Possible Actions

1. Approve the Recommendations.
2. Amend and Approve Recommendations.
3. Reject the Recommendations.

Background/Discussion

The following quote from Caring for Our Children: Our most Precious Investment, report of the Little Hoover Commission, September 1998, sets the stage for the FSSC Position Statement on Child Care in 1999.

Child care that is available, affordable and of high quality is vital to the well-being of families. The most important element in that experience and the central determinant of a child’s healthy development is a stable relationship with a nurturing caregiver. Investing in young children yields substantial benefits to the public.

The availability of high quality, affordable child care for children birth to three who are typically developing is extremely limited. Families of children with disabilities report that it is even harder to find and maintain any care for a child with a disability, let alone care that is of high quality.

In November 1999, the California ICC endorsed the *Position Statement on Child Care* brought forward as an action item by the Family Support Services Committee. These child care recommendations were submitted to the Department

of Developmental Services (DDS), Part C Lead Agency in California, in January 2000. This position statement framed recommendations for action and called on DDS to collaborate with the Department of Education, the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network and other key stakeholders to address the following goals:

- To identify the child care needs of families whose children have or are at risk for disabilities;
- To create additional child care options to meet the needs of children with or at risk for disabilities and their families; and
- To strengthen the capacity of the child care community to deliver appropriate, inclusive, high quality services.

Initial actions supported by DDS included a review of all regional center policies on child care and ensured that all address the individualized determination of service needs; the identification of pre service and in service training opportunities for child care providers under the Early Start Comprehensive System of Personnel Development. The recommendations were also presented and discussed with the Map to Inclusive Child Care project. This project was originally funded through the California Department of Education, Child Development Division (CDE/CDD) and supported by DDS as an ongoing forum for discussion and planning for inclusive child care by key state and local leaders and stakeholders in the fields of child care and special needs.

In July 2001 the ICC received a presentation led by Michael Jett with Mary Smithberger of the CDE/ CDD on their efforts to build capacity for inclusive child care under the State's Quality Improvement Plan funded through the federal Child Care Block Grant.

In November 2001, this topic was again addressed by the full ICC in the form of a panel on child care moderated by Marie Poulsen, an ICC member and Chair of the Quality Assurance for Personnel and Program Standards Committee. The stated purpose of the panel presentation was to identify and discuss current initiatives and resources in the state directed towards increasing the availability of child care for children with disabilities and to determine what activities still need to be initiated and by whom. The goal was to contribute to the knowledge and understanding of this issue and recommend a course of action for the ICC and/ or the Part C/ Early Start Lead Agency. It was noted in Dr. Poulsen's opening comments that a recent study reported that 86% of child care is said to be of poor quality and that infants and toddlers are the fastest growing age group needing child care. Panel members included Arlene Downing, M.D., representing Pediatricians; Kay Ryan, representing CDPAC; Carmen Padilla, representing the California Children and Families Commission (CCFC); Cheri Schoenborn, representing state level Early Start (ICC presentation); Kate Warren, representing families; and Pamm Shaw who presented preliminary findings of the Barriers to Inclusive Child Care Study project funded by the CCFC. The panel members noted a number of activities that were keeping this issue on the agenda at both state and local levels. Activities funded through CCFC include the following: Positive Outcomes for Children with Disabilities and Other Special Needs; School

Readiness Initiative which requires proposals to identify collaboration with local agencies involved in services for children with disabilities in their funding requests; and the establishment of a Diversity Committee to demonstrate its commitment to children with disabilities and other special needs; the Infant Preschool Family Mental Health Initiative which works with county teams to improve systems of care for children birth to three.

In December 2001, the Barriers to Inclusive Child Care Research Study: Findings and Recommendations were presented by WestEd under a contract with the CCFC. In February 2002 Investments to Create Positive Outcomes for Children with Disabilities and Other Special Needs was presented to the CCFC Diversity Committee by the California Institute on Human Services, Sonoma State University under an interagency agreement with the CCFC.

The above list represents a brief summary of major activities involving the ICC rather than a complete reporting of statewide activities and reports related to inclusive child care. What remains is a need to continue the dialogue and, more urgently, to move the recommendations and findings of all of the above to actions that improve access and support for children with disabilities in quality child care. Therefore, the FSSC respectfully presents this Action Item to the ICC.

B. Symposium Planning

Short Term Next Steps

- Support letters from specific agencies
- To increase the quality and quantity of doing a symposium that is pro active
- Possibly a graduated fee plan
- What is the incentive for people to come
- Give time to meet
- Team time, what are the benefits of meeting in teams
- The beginning session needs to start off with child care orientation and service delivery of early intervention services
- Parent panel
- Possible self selection sessions
- Age range
- May need three symposiums (North/Central/South)

Long Term Next Steps

- CDPAC has a contract with CSUS for registration
- Continued Funding

V. Proposed Agenda Item for May Meeting

- Proposed Action Item

VI. Adjourn